



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

COPY

18 August 1955

**Honorable Walter F. George
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.**

Dear Senator George:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 July 1955 requesting comments on S. 2614, introduced 22 July 1955 by Senator Smith of New Jersey, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence".

It is my understanding that the proposed legislation to which you refer was introduced pursuant to a recommendation of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government in their report on Intelligence, reading as follows: "That the Congress consider creating a Joint Congressional Committee on Intelligence similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy".

Comparable bills have previously been introduced by Senator Mansfield and certain other members of the Congress.

At the present time the Armed Services Committees and the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House deal with Central Intelligence Agency matters, the former being concerned with legislative and related problems, and the latter with our annual budgetary and other financial requirements.

In addition, Senator Russell as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee has designated a small group of the senior members of that committee to meet with CIA representatives from time to time to consider those phases of our work of interest to his committee.

Insofar as CIA is concerned, we have felt that through the committees above mentioned, we have had ample opportunity to secure full consideration of any legislative and related problems affecting

the Agency and we have not felt the need for the establishing of any committees to replace or supplement them. As you can appreciate, it is important from the point of view of security to restrict, to the extent feasible, the number of persons who are knowledgeable of the sensitive operations of this Agency. The relations which we have had with the committees of the Congress have been entirely consistent with this security need.

In case a Joint Congressional Committee to deal with the CIA should be established, we would, of course, give it our fullest cooperation, but I would point out that as the Central Intelligence Agency by the National Security Act of 1947 (Public Law 253, 80th Congress) is "established under the National Security Council," the views of the latter on this subject would be controlling on us insofar as the Executive Branch of the Government is concerned.

Both the recommendation of the Hoover Commission and the scope of S. 2614 cover more than the Central Intelligence Agency alone and relate to all aspects of the foreign intelligence activities of the Government.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Allen W. Dulles
Director